

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /244 W

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R 231404Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2692

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT PANELS ON DISC AND OTHER TAX PRACTICES

REF: STATE 229518

1. WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING THAT COUNCIL DECISION CALLS FOR
PANELS IS CORRECT.

2. MISSION CONTINUES CONSIDER AMB. SAHLGREN OF
FINLAND BEST GENEVA PERMREP FOR THESE PANELS. WE HAVE NO
INFO AS TO REASONS WHY EC CONSIDERED HIM UNACCEPTABLE BUT
BELIEVE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PERSONALITY CONFLICT
BETWEEN SAHLGREN AND DANISH AMB. THRANE. IF THIS
IS THE CASE, EC MIGHT RECONSIDER (NOW THAT LAI NO LONGER A
POSSIBILITY) SINCE U.S. COMPLAINTS TO BE HANDLED BY PANEL DO
NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVE DENMARK.

3. THERE ARE VERY FEW REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES AMONG GENEVA
PERMANENT MISSIONS SINCE EC (9 DELEGATIONS) INVLOVED
IN DISPUTE AND SOME OTHERS (JAPAN, CANADA) HAVE
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ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH EC COMPLAINT AGAINST

DISC ON NTB INVENTORY. POSSIBLE CANDIDATES MIGHT
INCLUDE:

A. TOMIC (YUGOSLAV MINISTER). HIS RECENT
APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT INVOLVE NARLY AS MUCH WORK AS LAI
WILL HAVE AS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SO HE MIGHT BE PREVAILED
UPON TO ACCEPT. HE IS EXPERIENCED IN GATT AND FAIR-
MINED BUT, LIKE VIRTUALLY ALL GENEVA PERMDELS, PRESUMABLY
WITHOUT SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF TAX MATTERS.

B. FALCONER (NEW ZEALAND COUNSELOR). ALTHOUGH
RELATIVE NEWCOMER TO GATT (6 MONTHS) AND NO EXPOSURE
AS CHAIRMAN, HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON GATT AND TRADE
POLICY MATTERS GENERALLY (PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT NZ EMBASSY
WASHINGTON). LIKELY RESIST APPOINTMENT DUE SMALL SIZE OF
NZ MISSION AND ANTICIPATED MTN WORKLOAD.

C. COLLIANDER (SWEEDEN). EXPERIENCED CHAIRMAN OF
VARIOUS GATT W.P.'S INCLUDING NTB WORK UNDER CTIP.
WE LIST HIM THIRD IN THIS CONTEXT ONLY BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL
PARTIALITY TOWARD EC DUE TO EC/EFTA TIES.

D. DUNKEL (SWITZERLAND). EXPERIENCED AND FAIR-
MINDED CHAIRMAN (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE).
UNFORTUNATELY SWITZERLAND HAS ALSO ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH
EC/CAN/JAPAN NTB NOTIFICATION AGAINST DISC WHICH
MAY MAKE HIM UNWILLING TO SERVE EVEN IF U.S. AGREED.
LIKELY TO RESIST APPOINTMENT IN ANY CASE BECAUSE ALREADY
OVERWORKED AND EXPECTS BE ACTIVE IN MTN. HIS OFFICE IS IN
BERN WHICH COULD BE ADDITIONAL DRAWBACK.MILLER

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